Kerela. NTPC, State Government Corportations and other parties including financial institutions will participate in the project.

Supply of Gas by ONGC to Private Industries

1813. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC is supplying gas to the private industries in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of supply and the amount earned from each company for the last three years;

(c) whether any complaints have been received regarding the realisation of the value being less than the value of actual supply; and

(d) if so, any enquiry made and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government of India has recently permitted the ONGC to directly market natural gas upto 1 lakh Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (SCMD) from its small isolated fields. Accordingly, ONGC has commenced supply of gas directly to the following private industries in Gujarat:—

Name of Industry	Month of Commencement
1. C.G. Glass	August, 98
2. Prime Ceramics	September, 98
3. Wellsuit Glass	September, 98
4. Specific Ceramics	November, 98
5. Growmore Ceramics	December, 98

During the last three completed financial years *i.e.* from 1995-96 to 1997-98, there was no supply of gas directly by ONGC to the private industries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Oil Wells in Assam

1814. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many new oil wells have been dug-up recently in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some insurgent groups have threatened to block the passage of oil out of Assam and to blow the new wells off was attempted; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by Government to thwart the announced threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons is an on-going process. During the year 1998-99, a total of 37 (19 exploratory and 18 development) wells have been drilled.

(c) and (d) Some insurgent groups have threatened to block the passage of oil out of Assam and to blow the new wells off. Preventive measures have been taken by issuing red alert and intensifying security around the vital installations and pipelines so as to ensure the operation of normal activities without disruption.

Oil production in 1998-99

1815. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target for oil production for 1998-99 and whether it was achieved;

(b) whether Government have any plan to enhance oil recovery from Bombay off-shore oilfield; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The target of production of crude oil during 1998-99 is 34.72 MMT. The production during April, 1998 to January, 1999 has been 27.465 MMT.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The following steps have been undertaken to enhance oil recovery from Bombay High oil-fields:—

(i) Acquired 3-D seismic data for better understanding of the complexities of the multi-layered reservoir of Bombay High field.

(ii) Drilling of in-fill wells to exploit by passed/undrained parts of the giant field.

(iii) Re-distribution of injection water for improved conformance.

(iv) Re-completion of poor performing wells.

(v) Reservoir consultant of International repute have been engaged by ONGC for planning the future development strategy to improve the recovery from the field.

(vi) Services of the experts hired on application of Gel technology and on trial basis in some identified wells for controlling excessive gas and water production.

(vii) Feasibility study of EOR methods.

Dismal performance of Bombay High

1816. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that among the oil fields, the performance of Bombay High was dismal during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the poor performance of the Bombay High; and

(d) the steps taken to improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The crude oil production from Bombay High during 1998-99 upto Feb., 1999 has been 10.642 MMT as against target of 11.110 MMT *i.e.* about 96% achievement.

(c) The main producing reservoirs of Bombay High field have entered the natural declining phase. Some of the wells are flowing with high Gas Oil Ratio and increasing water cut.

(d) To improve the performance of the field, a monitorable action plan as prepared by the Expert Committee is under implementation which includes:—

(i) Reservoir characterisation for better understanding of the complexities of the multi-layered reservoir of Bombay High field through the recently acquired 3-D seismic data.

(ii) Drilling of in-fill wells to exploit by passed/undrained parts of the giant field.

(iii) Re-distribution of injection water for improved conformance.

(iv) Re-completion of poor performing wells.

(v) Reservoir consultant of International repute have been engaged by ONGC for planning the future development strategy to improve the recovery from the field.

(vi) Services of the experts hired on application of Gel technology on trial basis in some identified wells for controlling excessive gas and water production and conformance control in injectors.

Vacant posts in PSUs/Boards

1817. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of top vacancies of Chairman/Managing Directors/Director etc. that are still lying vacant in various